United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution adopted last night, urges Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front to cooperate in peace process, to comply with Arusha Agreement, and to set up transitional government as soon as possible.

+ Committee on the Rights of the Child to hold fifth meeting in Geneva from 10 to 28 January; to discuss protection of children's rights in Mexico, Namibia, Colombia, Romania, Pakistan and Belarus.

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The Security Council last night strongly urged the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front to cooperate fully in furthering the peace process, to comply fully with the Arusha Peace Agreement, and to establish a broad-based transitional government as soon as possible. The Council took that action in the context of its review of the progress of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). In adopting resolution 893 (1994) unanimously, the Council reaffirmed its approval of the early deployment of the second battalion to the demilitarized zone as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 30 December 1993.

The Council stressed that continued support for UNAMIR would depend on full and prompt implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement, which was concluded last August. It reiterated its request that the Secretary-General continue to monitor the Mission's size and cost to seek economies. The Council also commended the efforts of Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations which had provided humanitarian and other aid to Rwanda and urged others to do likewise. It particularly commended the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in providing diplomatic, political, humanitarian and other support.

(more)

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The promotion and protection of children's rights in Mexico, Namibia, Colombia, Romania, Pakistan and Belarus will be the focus of discussion when the Committee on the Rights of the Child meets for the fifth time in Geneva from Monday, 10 to 28 January.

The Committee of 10 independent experts is charged with monitoring the progress of States in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition to considering the reports submitted by the six countries, during this session the Committee is also expected to consider various follow-up measures to the one-day general discussion it held last October on the protection of children against economic exploitation. Other agenda items include issues relating to information gathering and indicators of progress made in realizing economic, social and cultural rights, and cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the first instrument to give children's rights the force of international law, was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly on 20 November 1989, 30 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Work on drafting the Convention began in 1979 -- the International Year of the Child -- at the Commission on Human Rights. Unlike the Declaration, the Convention makes States which accept it legally accountable for their actions towards children.

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